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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,125	12/04/2001	Robert L. Canella	3481.1US (MUEI-0399.01/US)	4166
24247	7590	05/16/2006	EXAMINER	
TRASK BRITT P.O. BOX 2550 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84110			JOHNSON, JONATHAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,125

Applicant(s)

CANELLA ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan Johnson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8 and 64 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,9-11 and 65-67 is/are objected to.
8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,596,282 (Gidding). Gidding teaches a plurality of trays, each try being sized and configured to carry a plurality of discrete IC packages (figure 1, item 10); a transport actuator (mechanism moving the conveyor belt); a tray carrier, carried by and unsecured to the transport actuator for receiving at least one try of IC packages of the plurality of trays (figure 1, item 14); IC packages of the plurality of trays (figure 1, item 10); an input shuttle for providing the at least one tray of IC packages to the tray carrier (figure 1, item 12) and an output shuttle assembly for receiving the at least one try of IC packages from the tray carrier (figure 1, item 32) and a laser marking station disposed adjacent a portion of the transport actuator between input shuttle assembly and the output shuttle assembly (figure 1, item 30); where the transport actuator includes a transport tray having the tray carrier disposed thereon without securement thereto (figure 1, item 14 and 10); wherein an upper surface of the tray transport and a lower surface of the tray carrier include mutually cooperative physical structures (figure 1, item 14); wherein the mutually cooperative physical structures are adapted to align the tray carrier on the tray transport when the tray carrier is disposed thereon (figure 1, item 14); where the portions of the mutually cooperative physical

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structures provide a fulcrum for tilting of the tray carrier with respect to the tray transport (figure 1, item 14 edge); where the transport tray is lesser longitudinal extent than the tray carrier (figure 1, item 14); where the tray carrier is substantially rectangular and includes a substantially planar upper surface having upwardly extending stops at each corner thereof (figure 1, item 14)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-7, 9-11, and 65-67 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not suggest or teach the claimed tray transport or tray carrier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

Applicants argue that Giddings fails to describe "a tray carrier that is both carried by an unsecured to the transport actuator" as required by claim 1. In particular, applicant argues that "the conveyor assembly with a drive and a continuous belt is not the same as a tray carrier." (applicant's arguments, page 14). The examiner disagrees. During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation." Applicant always has the

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opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution, and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969). In the instant case, DICTIONARY.COM defines "unsecured" as "not fastened." In applying the Prater test by giving the claim limitation its broadest reasonable interpretation, it is the examiner's position that because the transport actuator (the actuator for moving the belt) moves the tray carrier (the belt, shown as feature 14), it carries and is unsecured to the tray carrier. That is, the transport actuator does not operate by securing or fastening to the tray carrier in order to move it, but rather rolls the tray carrier around it in an unsecured or unfastened manner.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-1177.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jonathan Johnson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725